

3rd Air Force rugby handed 1-point loss

In the past few weeks, the 3rd Air Force Rugby team has played in games that have ended with thin margins of victory. Feb. 8's game was the thinnest yet.

The game had no sooner started when the visiting team, Rayleigh, burst through the weak Air Force defense, scored their first try and made the conversion attempt. With the opening whistle still fresh in their ears, the Air Force team prepared to restart play and tried to change the attitude that the game had quickly taken.

Within minutes, the Air Force team forced their way deep into the Rayleigh end of the field and desperately pushed forward. With attempts from both loose and penalty play, the Air Force team could not get the ball down inside the try zone.

The Rayleigh defense was stiff and the Air Force offense was pounding. Many minutes went by without much result.

Finally, a penalty play from five meters out saw 3rd AF Anton Peterson punch the ball right up to the goal line and make a quick pass to offer Tony Ramirez for an easy score, which was converted.

The momentum of the game had shifted since Rayleigh's opening score. They didn't threaten the Air Force goal line for the rest of the half. With time running low in the half, Brent Noisette made a stunning open-field run that broke several tackle attempts and ended with a surge at the goal line that carried both Noisette and a would-be tackler across the line for the try.

Once again 3rd AF kicker/scrum-half Alan Larnach converted the try and gave his team a 14 - 7 lead that carried into the half.

After half time, things were pretty much the same. The 3rd AF team continued to run roughshod over the opposition and the game emotions began to get a little heated. With about 10 minutes left to play, the 3rd AF team seemed to lose favor with the otherwise liberal referee and things changed for the worse.

On one of many penalties, the Rayleigh team decided to go for points and their kicker accurately scored them to take the score to 14 - 10. A series of calls, led to the Rayleigh team forcing their way deep into the Air Force end of the field. With the 3rd AF players thoroughly frustrated and confused, the Rayleigh team scored a try in the corner. Because of the difficult angle, the Rayleigh team failed to convert. With a score of 15 - 14, both teams intensely battled for control of the game to try and put it away.

With just moments left in the game the 3rd AF team took a weak kick from a Rayleigh player and forced it deep into the Rayleigh end. An off-sides player, forced into action, committed an illegal tackle just short of the try zone.

Because of the penalty, the 3rd AF team was afforded a chance to kick for three points before the final whistle blew. Larnach calmly set up the kick and tried to line up a tough angle, but the kick ended up sailing just left of the posts.

The final whistle left the dejected Air Force players feeling the sting of a one-point loss.



Photo by SrA. Jeff Capenos

3 - 2 - 1, Blast Off!

Kevin Moffitt, Dental, reaches for the net against a 492nd Fighter Squadron team member during Tuesday night playoff action. Dental whipped the 492nd 76 - 46.

Sports Shorts

'Step Out'

The fitness and sports center sponsors "Step Out," a two-hour step aerobic class. The class is 10 a.m. - noon Saturday and is open to all identification card holders. For more information, call Lorraine Botwright at Ext. 3607.

Skating lesson coming

Registration for skating lesson begins today through March 16 at the skating rink. For details and price information, call Ext. 1627.

Basketball all-star day

The fitness and sports center sponsors an intramural-basketball all-star day Saturday.

The day includes the intramural championship game and the over 30's championship game. For details, call Ext. 2391.

Aero club

The aero club offers a private pilot ground school course beginning Tuesday. The course is 5:30 - 8:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays. Cost is \$200 or \$50 with tuition assistance. Call Ext. 3152 for details.

Coaches certification clinic

The youth center sports program sponsors a coaches certification clinic at 5:30 p.m. Thursday and March 3. All coaches must attend.

For more information, call Ext. 3180.

Varsity coaches selection

The fitness and sports center needs varsity coaches for men's and women's softball, volleyball, soccer and track-and-field. Individuals can complete an application at the center. Call SSgt. Chris Rogers at Ext. 3607 for more information.

Liberty Lanes' 30-game offer

Liberty Lanes offers a "Winter Wonderful" 30-game punch card for \$25. The cards are valid until March 31 and may be used any time. Call Ext. 2108 for details.